

The Oregonian

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FRANCOIS ABOUT VOLTAIRE

Voltaire is still a subject of controversy because, by many, he is not well understood. Several letters about him have recently appeared in The Oregonian; some of them tinged with the still surviving idea that his chief characteristics were bitter and malicious.

MERRY BUT NOT WISE.

The old song says "It is good to be merry and wise." The revelers on the streets of Portland New Year's eve obeyed the first part of the precept better than the last.

SPEEDY JUSTICE.

On November 25, in blind, passionate rage, James A. Finch murdered Ralph B. Fisher. Thirty days later, Finch was convicted of murder in the first degree, and now stands in the shadow of the gallows.

DR. POHL ON CITY'S HEALTH

Ascribes Low Death Rate to Service of City Functionaries. PORTLAND, Dec. 31.—(To the Editor.)—Criticism of the Health Department has been increased during the past year.

RECORD OF A USEFUL LIFE.

Life was kind to Jacob Mayer. Through commerce, industry, honesty and industry he laid, in his early manhood the foundation of a fortune which grew with the growth of Portland and the Northwest.

THE CALENDAR, SO-CALLED.

Our divisions of time, for the greater part, are artificial and absurd. But the method has been already used, without exaggeration of estimates of population, in order to get more.

up his worthless life, Finch can make up for his crime. The hold-up men were animated by a different purpose than that which caused Finch to fortify himself with bad-faith courses in the shape of bad whiskey, and their act was in its way equally offensive and dangerous to society.

LATEST DEVICE FOR MORE TAXES.

The Oregonian consents to and accepts the largest possible estimate of the population of Portland, and it is unwilling to entertain any estimate made on the basis of official extravagance, by the Board of Health or other bureau.

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